

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01671 261912Z

ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAEE-00 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3767

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1671

FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS SITREP MAY 25, 1977

1. COMMITTEE I: CHAIRMAN ENGO OPENED THE FIRST FORMAL MEETING OF COMMITTEE I WITH AN HOUR-LONG EXHORTATION OF DELEGATES TO MOVE TOWARD THE "CHERISHED DREAM" OF AN INTERNATIONAL SEABEDS REGIME. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE CONSTRUCTIVE WORK OF MINISTER EVENSEN (NORWAY) AT THE RECENT GENEVA INTERSESSIONAL AND ANNOUNCED THAT EVENSEN WOULD CONTINUE TO CHAIR INFORMAL MEETINGS HERE, ON ENGO'S BEHALF.

2. COMMITTEE I SWITCHED TO ITS INFORMAL MODE IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION ON MAY 25. IT ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA:
A) RESOURCE POLICY (ARTICLE 9).
B) SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION (ARTICLES 22, 23 AND ANNEX I).
C) SETTING UP AND FINANCING THE ENTERPRISE.
D) PERMANENT VS TRANSITIONAL REGIME, INCLUDING A REVIEW CLAUSE.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01671 261912Z

3. EVENSEN HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED TO DISCUSS THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION FIRST AND RESOURCE POLICY LAST, BUT HE WAS PERSUADED BY PERU (DE SOTO), WITH NOTABLE SUPPORT FROM CUBA, USSR, CANADA, SENEGAL AND LIBYA, TO START WITH ARTICLE 9. THE US DEL (RICHARDSON) ARGUED THAT EVENSEN'S ORIGINAL AGENDA ORDER WAS MORE LOGICAL AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF SEEKING

TO BUILD AN EARLY CONSENSUS ON THE ACCESS SYSTEM BEFORE TACKLING THE KNOTTY ARTICLE 9 ISSUE. AFTER ONLY JAPAN INTERVENED TO AGREE, THE US DEL EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG WITH THE CONSENSUS.

4. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF ARTICLE 9 WILL COMMENCE MAY 26, CONSIDERING THE RSNT, THE EVENSEN TEXT, AND A G-77 PROPOSAL. THE LATTER VERSION (TEXT TRANSMITTED SEPTEL) WAS DEVELOPED IN THE RECENT G-77 CAUSUS BUT IS SIMILAR TO TEXT DEVELOPED LAST FALL. AS IN GENEVA, EVENSEN REPORTEDLY INTENDS TO MAINTAIN A BRISK PACE, WHICH COULD MEAN CUTTING SHORT DISCUSSION OF ISSUES THAT THREATEN TO BOG DOWN THE MEETING. HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY USE BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS TO PRODUCE YET ANOTHER COMPROMISE TEXT
WITHIN THE NEXT TWO TO THREE WEEKS.

5. AT A G-5 MEETING MAY 25, UK, FRANCE AND JAPAN AGREED TO JOIN THE US IN EXPRESSING TO COMMITTEE I STRONG SUBSTANTIVE OPPOSITION TO THE G-77 AND EVENSEN TEXTS OF ARTICLE 9. THE SOVIET UNION, CITING POLITICAL PRESSURE NOT TO REPUDIATE THE POSITION OF SOCIALIST ALLY CUBA, SAID IT WOULD ACCEPT THE G-77 TEXT OF ARTICLE 9 AS A BASIS OF NEGOTIATION. THIS SOVIET ATTEMPT TO CURRY FAVOR WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BELIES SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE RESERVATIONS WHICH THEY SHARE WITH US ON THE G-77 TEXT. BUT PRIVATE CONTACTS SUGGEST THAT THE SOVIETS WISH TO CONTINUE DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM THE US VIEW OF A COMMITTEE I IDEAL OFFERING FINANCING FOR THE ENTERPRISE IN RETURN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01671 261912Z

FOR ASSURED ACCESS TO STATE-SPONSORED MINERS. INSTEAD, THEY WOULD PREFER TO BUILD UP CREDITS WITH THE G-77 IN ARTICLE 9 TO AID BARGAINING FOR STRONG ACCESS PROVISIONS.

6. COMMITTEE III. FEW REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMITTEE III ARE IN NEW YORK. THERE IS SOME INTEREST IN BEGINNING WORK ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN MARINE POLLUTION BUT AN INTEREST IN POSTPONING SERIOUS WORK ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. CHAIRMAN YANKOV WILL ARRIVE THIS WEEK-END TO DECIDE WHEN AND IN WHAT MANNER WORK SHOULD PROCEED.
LEONARD

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